

Message Text

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ORIGIN NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-04 PA-01 PRS-01 USIA-06 CIAE-00

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, IN

SUBJECT:FOOD AID TO INDIA - PRESS GUIDANCE

REF: ISLAMABAD 10553

1. FOLLOWING GUIDANCE PREPARED FOR RESPONDING
PRESS INQUIRIES THIS SUBJECT:

QUESTION: IS IT RIGHT THAT WE ARE GOING TO PROVIDE INDIA
WITH MORE THAN 1 MILLION TONS UNDER PL 480 AS REPORTED IN
TODAY'S NEW YORK TIMES?

ANSWER: THE SECRETARY OF STATE ADDRESSED THE QUESTION
OF CONCESSIONAL FOOD SALES TO INDIA IN HIS OCTOBER 30
PRESS CONFERENCE IN NEW DELHI. HE STATED AS PART OF OUR
OVERALL POLICY IN DEALING WITH THE FOOD PROBLEM WE WOULD
HAVE A PROGRAM OF FOOD ASSISTANCE FOR INDIA. HE STATED
WE HAVE MADE SOME PRELIMINARY ALLOCATIONS BUT ARE REVIEWING
THESE AND THAT A FINAL JUDGEMENT CANNOT BE MADE UNTIL HE
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RETURNS TO WASHINGTON. THAT IS WHERE THE MATTER RESTS.

QUESTION: HOW MUCH IS ALREADY ALLOCATED? WHAT MORE
ARE WE LIKELY TO PROVIDE? 500,000 TONS, 1 MILLION TONS
OR WHAT?

ANSWER: I DO NOT WANT TO GET INTO THE NUMBERS GAME.
UNTIL FINAL DECISIONS HAVE BEEN MADE ABOUT PL 480 TITLE I

PROGRAMS, THERE IS NO POINT IN SPECULATING ABOUT ALLOCATIONS.

QUESTION: WHAT ABOUT THE REPORT THAT A SEPARATE 300,000
TONS ARE GOING UNDER GRANT AID UNDER TITLE II? HOW MANY
WENT LAST YEAR UNDER THIS PROGRAM?

ANSWER: AS YOU KNOW, THE TITLE II PROGRAM WITH INDIA,
THAT IS FOODGRAINS AND OTHER COMMODITIES PROVIDED ON A
GRANT BASIS FOR DISTRIBUTION BY U.S. VOLUNTARY RELIEF
AGENCIES, HAS BEEN A CONTINUING ONE AND WAS NOT STOPPED
BY THE INDIANS AS WAS TITLE I IN 1971. IN FISCAL YEAR
1974 WE PROVIDED \$56 MILLION WORTH OF FOODGRAINS AND
OTHER COMMODITIES WHICH AMOUNTED TO ABOUT 260,000 METRIC
TONS UNDER TITLE II. THIS YEAR WE HAVE A PLANNING
FIGURE OF \$57 MILLION. IN ADDITION WE PROVIDED \$4
MILLION IN FY '74 FOR INDIA VIA THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAM,
ALSO FUNDED UNDER TITLE II OF PL 480. IN FY '75 WE HAVE
A PLANNING FIGURE OF \$9 MILLION FOR THIS PROGRAM. (TOTALS
TITLE II: FY 1974: \$60 MILLION, FY 1975: \$66 MILLION.
(ESTIMATED).

FYI: HOW MUCH FOOD THE \$57 MILLION WILL BUY DEPENDS UPON
PRICES AT THE TIME.

2. FOR ISLAMABAD: YOU SHOULD DRAW ON THIS MATERIAL AS
NECESSARY TO RESPOND TO EAD SECRETARY KHAN. FYI - USG
HAS ALLOCATED 300,000 TONS FOODGRAINS FOR INDIA DURING
SECOND QUARTER FY 75, AND PRESENTLY PLANS PROGRAM
200,000 TONS MORE DURING THIRD AND FOURTH QUARTERS. HOW-
EVER, YOU SHOULD AVOID ANY DISCUSSION SPECIFIC AMOUNTS
WHEN REPLYING TO KHAN. FINAL DECISION ON AMOUNT TO BE
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PROVIDED INDIA UNDER TITLE I PL 480 NOT YET MADE. MAW

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